

DAILY STAR

THE NEWS
THE GOSSIP
THE PICS
THE SPORT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004 SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

SEXY
NEW
CELEB
PICS



GIRLS ALLOUD

Stunning
new pics &
exclusive
interview

Pages 26-27

BLUNKO Fights for his job in visa row

Page 9



GET **OK!** AND **hot** FOR £1

Page 32



Dream dates

Spend a year with Victoria Silvstedt
and Abi Titmuss. Turn to Page 32

FHM

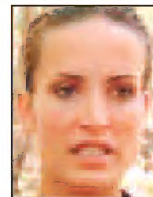
MY SOPHIE'S NO LOVE CHEAT

Boyfriend hits back at cruel taunts



EXCLUSIVE
From PETER DYKE Down Under

JUNGLE babe Sophie Anderton's millionaire lover last night denied she'd cheated on him with her ex. Former footballer Mark Bosnich claims he recently bedded the I'm A Celeb star again. But club boss Mark Alexiou blasted him as "lower than the bugs she's eaten in the jungle". Full story: Pages 4 & 5



Tories to dismiss ID cards

THE Tories would be unlikely to press ahead with the introduction of identity cards if they came to power.

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis said yesterday he had "serious misgivings" about the scheme.

The Identity Cards Bill, announced in last week's Queen's Speech, is due to be published today.

Fraud

But asked if ID cards would form part of the Tory manifesto if an election is called before the Bill becomes law, Mr Davis said: "I don't think we will be doing that."

Labour says the £3 billion scheme will protect against identity fraud and aid the war on terrorism and illegal immigration.

But Mr Davis added: "We have got to have a balance between the right to life and the right to privacy and freedom."

COP SHOP ATTACK

TWO police officers were injured fighting a fire after a petrol-bomb attack on a police station in Oxford early yesterday.



Dads held in protest

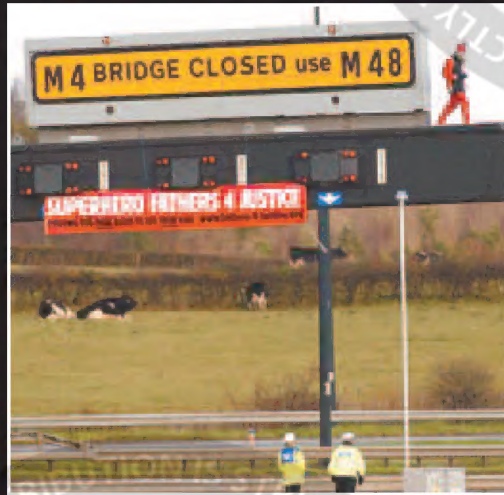
FOUR people were arrested after members of a fathers' rights group forced the closure of the Severn Bridge just hours before a royal visit.

Three men and a woman from campaign group Fathers 4 Justice were detained after protesters scaled a gantry over the M4 in Santa Claus outfits.

Police said the bridge, 20 miles from Cardiff, was blocked in both directions for several hours.

The protest occurred before a visit by the Queen to a gala concert in Cardiff last night.

Fathers 4 Justice spokesman Jason Hatch said the Santa protesters were aiming to send a message to the Queen to put the "Father" back into Christmas.



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BROWN PLOTS £1BILLION TAX BUNG

Town Hall polls 'ploy'

CHANCELLOR Gordon Brown stands accused of devising a £1 billion town halls "bung".

Tories say he plans to hand over the cash to keep council tax down before an election.

But they think it will be a cynical one-off gesture to hide a

■ by IMOGEN LILLYWHITE

huge increase to come. And council tax payers will be hit with the true bill later.

Mr Brown has asked Whitehall departments to save hundreds of millions of pounds from existing budgets to put towards an emergency cash injection for local government.

It will help town halls keep council tax rises to under 5% in April – a month before the likely General Election date.

Hikes

Labour-run councils will also be encouraged to go further into debt or run down reserves next year to avoid announcing big tax hikes



ACCUSED: Gordon Brown

until 2006. A Whitehall source said: "Ministers know double-digit rises at the start of an election campaign would be very bad news indeed."

Shadow local government minister Caroline Spelman last night warned voters not to be fooled.

She said: "The typical family could get a £2,000 council tax bill under a third Labour term."

STAR NEWS



GOSS Pages 16-17

VANESSA 11 ● TELLY 38-41
HOT 19 ● XWORD 42
CATCHPOLE 29 ● JANE 57

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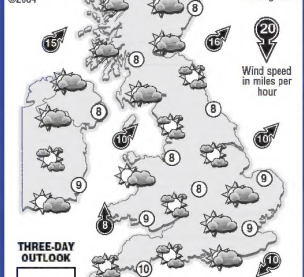
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Dry and bright across much of the United Kingdom. Cloudier over south-east England with a few coastal showers or patchy drizzle. Mostly cloudy in Scotland with showers moving in from the west.

OUTLOOK: Largely dry and bright across England. Cloudy for Northern Ireland and Scotland with patchy light rain. Thickening cloud in Wales with some rain later.

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather.com ©2004



THREE-DAY OUTLOOK

Tuesday Sunny

Wednesday Drizzle

Thursday Cloudy

POUND ABROAD

Australia 2.39 dollars
Canada 2.23 dollars
Cyprus 0.83 pounds
Czech Republic 44.17 korunas
Mexico 21.40 pesos
South Africa 11.15 rand
Thailand 74.75 baht
Turkey 2753510 lira
United States 1.89 dollars

EURO

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain € 1.43

ABROAD	rain	14c (57)	N. York	cloudy	-9c (16)
Alicante	fair	8c (46)	N. York	sunny	11c (52)
Corfu	fair	8c (46)	Nice	rain	13c (55)
Dublin	fair	8c (46)	Paris	rain	8c (46)
L. Angeles	sunny	20c (68)	Rhodes	rain	14c (57)
Majorca	rain	12c (53)	Rome	cloudy	17c (62)
Miami	fair	27c (80)	Tenerife	fair	19c (66)

Star Weather

UK National 0905 062 3827

Holiday weather 0905 062 3823

Calls cost 60p/min from a BT landline

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27

1 2 9 12 15 18 21

No ticket matched all seven balls to win £30,000

SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 27

4 7 9 10 43 46 11

Three ticket shared the £5m jackpot

EXTRA: 17, 22, 24, 31, 37, 40 T-Ball 11, 18, 22, 28, 33 (Tb 14)

No Extra winners. No T-Ball £250,000 jackpot winners

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 24

06 09 15 23 38 48 45

Three tickets shared the £2.8m jackpot

EXTRA: 12, 15, 17, 30, 36, 46 T-Ball: 3, 7, 8, 23, 27 (Tb 11)

No ticket won the £3.9m Extra jackpot. One T-Ball winner

EURO LOTTO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

1, 4, 24, 34, 36 Lucky Star Numbers 6, 8

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 65.5% of the new material for UK newspapers in 2000

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SMS

Sophie

SIZZLING Sophie nestles down for a cosy evening in front of a pile of roaring logs – and for some reason her fans start singing Chestnuts Roasting by an Open Fire.

The 21-year-old can't wait for the party season to start, even though she will have to fender off loads of admirers.

Sophie says she will be burning the midnight oil in the run-up to Xmas and hopes yule all put her on your prezzy list.

HOT PICS TO YOUR MOBILE

DOWNLOAD this great topless picture of Sophie direct to your mobile by texting STARBABE to 88833. See Page 18 for full details.

● Downloads cost £1.50 plus your usual network SMS rate. Calls cost £1.50 a minute. Average call length one minute.



Picture: JEANNY SAVAGE

BRIT OF ROUGH

Scarlett begs shy UK blokes: 'Come 'n get me'

■ by IAIN BURCHELL
BRIT blokes are too shy for Scarlett Johansson – and she'd be quite happy with a bit of rough and ready.

Polite British blokes take forever to find the bottle to chat her up, the blonde bombshell moans.

And although those gentlemanly good manners may be cute, the 20-year-old Oscar winner says she's not prepared to hang around while they build up their nerve to ask her out.

Touch

"The British are charming, so funny and so polite," says Scarlett, who got a chance to study the local talent while she filmed recently in Britain with comedian Woody Allen.

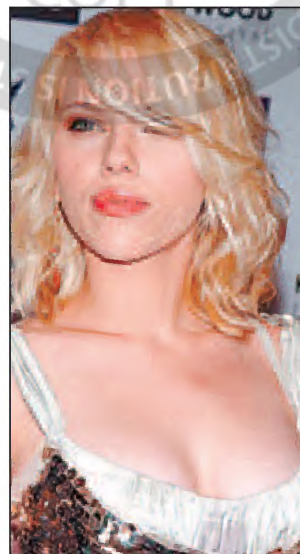
"But it's more look but don't touch. You sense it would take a guy forever to make up his mind about what to say."

"By the time they get there, you're gone."

At the other extreme, the curvy star – dubbed the new Marilyn Monroe – finds the up-front advances of fellow New Yorkers over the top.

She says: "In New York you get these brash guys who'll come up and say 'nice tits', and you just tell them where to go."

A few lucky hunks have managed to sweep Oscar winner Scarlett off her



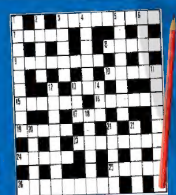
SEX APPEAL: Dishy Scarlett

feet. She has had a stormy on-off romance with American hunk Jared Lato, 32, from Fight Club.

And she reportedly had a steamy Oscar night romp in a lift with rugged Usual Suspects actor Benicio Del Toro, 37.

Scarlett, who will star with Tom Cruise in Mission: Impossible III, added: "Men never really come good until their 30s."

Tackle two fab pages of puzzles HOURS OF FUN ● PAGES 42-43



BROOKLYN'S GOT HIS OWN FERRARI

CAR crazy David Beckham has got son Brooklyn the ultimate boy's toy for Christmas – a £25,000 Ferrari.

The red two-seater is a scaled-down, child-size version of the classic sports car.

But five-year-old Brooklyn will still be able to zoom along at 15mph.

Now he can copy his 29-year-old soccer ace dad who's got two real Ferraris.

"The mini Ferrari is a great copy and goes at quite a lick," said a family pal.

"It even has leather seats and a roof that comes off."

"It's powered by petrol, so Brooklyn will need his dad to help him fill it up."



RED HOT: Brooklyn

DAILY
STAR

JUNGLE FEVER



JUNGLE FEVER



HAPPY COUPLE:
A smiling Mark
Bosnich and
Sophie before
the split

BUG OFF, BOSNICH

My Sophie's no cheat

SOPHIE Anderton's fella Mark Alexiou last night slammed claims she cheated on him and branded her ex-love, shamed footballer Mark Bosnich, "lower than the bugs she's eaten in the jungle".

Former Chelsea and Manchester Utd keeper Bosnich, 32, has insisted he slept with Sophie while she was dating Alexiou and claims she was a "sex-crazed wildcat" after seven months without him.

He says he even took cocaine with her during their steamy romp. Another former lover, property tycoon Matt Graham, claimed she was a kinky self-obsessed lover who enjoyed lesbian sex. He added: "She told me she'd had the best sex of her life with an American woman."

But speaking exclusively to the Daily Star, Alexiou dismissed all the allegations and maintained it would not damage his relationship with the 27-year-old model, now a favourite to win *I'm A Celebrity*. At the five-star Versace Hotel in the resort of Surfer's Paradise, we told him about the claims that Sophie had sex with Bosnich in September and snorted cocaine "for old time sake" when she was supposed to be clean.

Shock

The 29-year-old Alexiou was clearly shocked.

He said: "So this low life has raised his ugly head again in an effort to gain publicity and milk his 15 minutes of fame which I thought had already run out."

"For the record, Sophie was with me throughout the whole of September."

Then, referring to her Bushtucker Trial where



**by PETER DYKE
in Australia**

she ate stick insects, witchetty grubs and beetle pupae, he added: "As far as I'm concerned Mark Bosnich is lower than any of those bugs. I wish he would just crawl back under his stone."

"I love Sophie to bits and our relationship will not be ruined by this sort of thing."

"I can't wait to see her and give her a kiss and a hug and tell her that I love her."

Nightclub boss Mark said he had been amazed at how well Sophie - who is battling a booze and drugs addiction - had coped in the TV show.

"You know she completes a Bushtucker Trial every day because of her fight against the booze and that," he said.

Asked if he thought that sexy Sophie would win the show, he said: "As far as I am concerned she is 'The Queen of My World', she doesn't have to be Queen of the Jungle."

Row

Mark claimed the row between Sophie and Natalie Appleton last week was a storm in a teacup and was not something to be worried about.

Nat flew off the handle, claiming the model was totally self-centred and called her "Miss Me Me Me".

He said the real reason why Sophie likes to talk about herself is down to her recovery from her cocaine addiction.

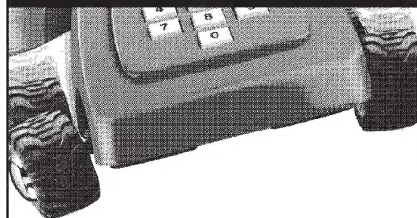
He said: "When you are in recovery from drink and drugs you learn to love yourself as a person for the first time."

"And that's just what Sophie is doing - sorting out her emotions and her feelings."



FURIOUS: Mark
Alexiou denies sex
and drugs claim

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WHO'LL GO FIRST?

EVENS
3/1 from 4/1
5/1
6/1 from 8/1
10/1 from 6/1
14/1
20/1
25/1
40/1
100/1

Sheila Ferguson
Nancy Sorrell
Natalie Appleton
Antonio Fargas
Sophie Anderton
Vic Reeves
Paul Burrell
Fran Cosgrave
Janet Street-Porter
Joe Pasquale

WHO WILL WIN?

4/6
3/1
7/1
8/1
10/1 from 12/1
10/1 from 20/1
20/1
20/1
33/1
50/1

Joe Pasquale
Vic Reeves
Janet Street Porter
Fran Cosgrave
Sophie Anderton
Paul Burrell
Nancy Sorrell
Antonio Fargas
Natalie Appleton
Sheila Ferguson

FERGIE FACING THE BOOT

MILLIONS of viewers will vote tonight to decide who will be the first to be booted out of the camp.

Sheila Ferguson, 57, is favourite to go, just ahead of Nancy Sorrell and Natalie Appleton.

Ladbroke's spokesman Warren Lush said: "It's close but Sheila is favourite as she has shown herself to be a bit of a stirrer."

"Nancy's chances of eviction have got much stronger since

Vic arrived. There has been a big gamble on Natalie to go.

"Her odds have been cut from 14/1 to 5/1."

Joker Joe Pasquale is favourite to be king of the jungle.

But money is continuing to pour in for Sophie Anderton, who is now 10/1 from 33/1.

Mr Lush added: "Joe is now odds-on to win. The odds have also been cut on Sophie or Paul Burrell winning."



IN DANGER: Sheila

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DAILY
STAR

JUNGLE FEVER

I'M A CELEBRITY
GO HOME!

JUNGLE FEVER

HAT'S MY GIRL: Sophie kisses tearful Nancy. For a laugh, the girls then got dressed up in the booby prize swim gear



Nancy's tear drop

IT all ends in tears as Nancy Sorrell relives the terrifying moment she was left hanging over a ravine. Nancy, 30, had to retrieve the celebrity chest with Paul Burrell, 46, by walking along a tightrope. While Burrell screamed his way to the other side,

Nancy slipped off and was left hanging by a harness. Back at camp, she collapsed weeping to be comforted by Sophie Anderton and husband Vic Reeves. But Nancy got her revenge when she rebelled to open the chest for

choocs, coffee and sugar that had been banned after the group got a sex-survey question wrong. Their booby prize was swimming hats, arm bands and rubber rings. "Come on let's have a giggle," Sophie suggested pulling on a floral hat.



Natalie moans and groans: Pages 6&7

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DAILY
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JUNGLE FEVER



JUNGLE FEVER

JUNGLE-OMETER

THE I'm A Celebrity phone-lines are now open for you to vote for the contestant you want to KEEP in the jungle. At the end of each night, the star with the least number of votes will be evicted by hosts Ant and Dec. The Bushtucker

Trials will now be done by a contestant nominated by the camp. It means Natalie Appleton, picked for four tasks by viewers, is unlikely to face another one - especially as she could well face eviction.

▲ JOE PASQUALE

HE may be struggling with the jungle toilet, but Joe is still giving the camp plenty of laughs.

09011323205



▼ SOPHIE ANDERTON

HER battle with Nat seems to have cooled, but Sophie still looks hot. She has plenty of fans outside the camp - if not in it.

09011323210

▲ VIC REEVES

THE comic helped put a smile back on Nancy's face, but there are still no signs yet of a fumble in the jungle.

09011323211



▼ NANCY SORRELL

TRIED her best at the task with Paul Burrell, but ended up weeping. Will she also be in tears over the first eviction?

09011323206

▲ HUGGY BEAR

WORKED with Janet to catch the eel. Used to help catch much more slippery villains with Starsky and Hutch.

09011323203



▲ PAUL BURRELL

BRAVELY crossed a ravine in the Celebrity Chest test, but describing it as "like Indiana Jones" was a bit much.

09011323208

▲ JANET STREET-PORTER

CAUGHT an eel to make sure the group didn't starve. But then after she cooked a catfish, Brian Harvey quit.

09011323204



▼ FRAN COSGRAVE

HE'S admitted that he is bored in the jungle. Liven it up then, Fran - while you've still got the chance.

09011323202

▶ SHEILA FERGUSON

STILL moaning with Natalie about everything. Her only saving grace is her singing in the camp.

09011323209



▶ NATALIE APPLETON

ANOTHER day, another failure. She can't stop moaning and has enough tears to fill the river in her latest Bushtucker Trial.

09011323207

▼ BRIAN HARVEY



GONE

OH NO, I'M

Moaning celeb's Bushtucker flop

by MARK JEFFERIES

JUNGLE flop Natalie Appleton won just one meal for the camp in her fourth Bushtucker Trial as she wailed yet again: "I feel faint!"

Her Slither River test on I'm A Celebrity saw Nat get into the water to try to release 10 buoys which were protected by jungle nasties.

But she was offering excuses even before she got her feet wet. Nat, 31, said: "I was going to go home yesterday. I felt so sick. I am constantly under pressure."

With five minutes on the clock, Nat had to try to release all 10 buoys to claim 10 meals - while a series of tanks containing snakes were released at timed intervals.

After some words of encouragement from hosts Ant and Dec, Nat put on a wetsuit and goggles and prepared to do the trial. But

the cold water came as a shock - and Nat squealed when she spotted an eel in the water.

"Oh my God, I'm scared!" she cried. "My daughter could do this, she is so good under the water. I'm not very good."

Dizzy

She managed to release just one buoy before gasping: "Guys, I can't. I feel faint."

She then screamed as a box of snakes dropped into the water, saying: "I'm too dizzy. I'm going to faint."

Back on dry land, Nat said: "I'm really light-headed. I'm really sorry everybody. I thought

could do this. I physically can't do it."

Presenter Dec, 29, told her: "You got in there and crossed the bridge, which is a trial in itself for you. You gave it a try. You have done so many trials that it has really taken it out of you."

Nat said: "I don't care if I win this or not. I know that this has been a good time. I want someone else to do better."

The former All Saints singer is now officially the biggest whinger ever on I'm A Celeb.

She has not gone a day without complaining or crying and is one of the favourites to be booted out of the show tonight. Here are

just some of her vintage whines...

● JUST hours into the show, she moaned: "I'm going to go home. I don't know if I can do this. I don't think I have got the strength. I can't snap out of it. I'm not mentally prepared for this right now. I can't do it."

"My friends are watching me now and I know that I'm letting them down - I'm really sorry."

● ON day two, she took more than three hours to do the Bushtucker Trial tightrope walk. After winning six meals, she complained: "My knees have gone like jelly. Do you realise this is really serious for me? I'm doing this for my kids."

● BY day four, she griped to Sheila Ferguson that she was not like Sophie Anderton. Nat bitched: "I can't pretend to be phony." She even moaned: "I'm not being interesting."

● DAY five saw her miss half the Leap of Faith Bushtucker Trial, saying she failed because she had "rice in my throat".

● NAT had a row with Sophie Anderton on day six, shouting: "You are a prima donna!"

● AFTER yesterday's Bushtucker flop, Nat refused to eat the ostrich egg - because there were no soldiers to dip into it! Nat whinged: "I can't do this. Sophie finds it easier than me."

Ind the mood

PREENING Paul Burrell boasted that he felt like Indiana Jones after he took back the Celebrity Chest to camp with weepy Nancy Sorrell.

Burrell, 46, had to cross a ravine single-handedly after Nancy, 30, fell from the rope they were crossing. And while she was in floods of tears, Burrell shrieked his way to the other side.

When they returned with the spoils, the group failed to answer a question which would have opened the chest. But they cheated by opening it anyway to find coffee beans, sugar and chocolate.

Joe Pasquale, 43, said: "They're going to take something back off us for that, that's the name of the game mate."

"You know what?" Nancy declared, "we don't care - we are hungry."



CHEST YOU WAIT: Paul presses on with the task to reach the treasure



YOU'LL BE SORRELL: Joe Pasquale enjoyed a sneaky peek at Nancy while husband Vic Reeves wasn't around

DAILY
STAR

JUNGLE FEVER

I'M A CELEBRITY
GO TO ZERO

JUNGLE FEVER

NAT DOING IT

Jungle
Briefs

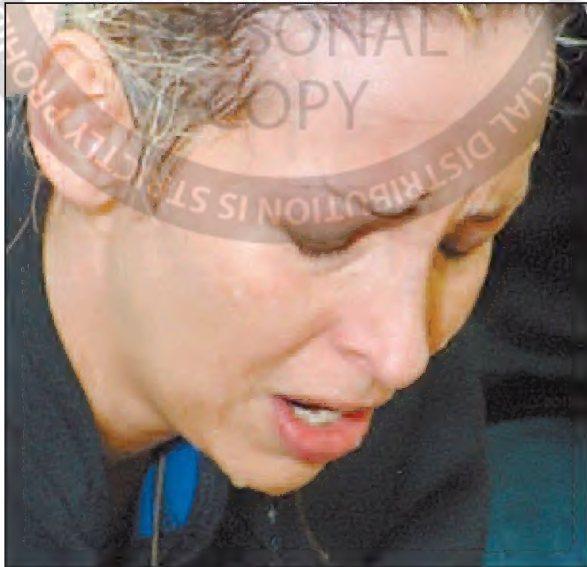
I'M A Celebrity may be pulling in 10 million viewers but the contestants are getting bored. Sophie Anderton, 27, said: "I just feel that I'm going a wee bit mad. It's like everything is the same all day long." Huggy Bear added: "I think that is the toughest part of the journey because you want something fresh and all you do is get the same."

JOE Pasquale has got one problem in the jungle that he is not laughing about – he can't go to the loo. The 43-year-old comic has been constipated for nine days. While former King of the Jungle Phil Tufnell had a similar problem in the second series of the show, he managed to "change his shoes" in the second week.

Janet Street-Porter expressed concern, but Pasquale told the 57-year-old broadcaster: "I'm scared to go now in case I might lose a stone in one hit."

FORMER royal butler Paul Burrell, 46, is planning to swap the infested jungle camp for a plush palace after putting in a bid for a new £1.25m home on the River Dee in Cheshire. **BURRELL'S** family say they are sure the Queen is watching him and probably voting for him to do a Bush Tucker Trial. Paul's son Alex said: "I certainly hope she's watching and cheering him on. I don't see why not. I bet she is fascinated seeing him on a show like this."

Paul's family think he has done amazingly well to cope with the stunts and surprises TV bosses have thrown at him. Alex added: "He is tougher than people think. He has been thrown in at the deep end. He's done really well. He is a fighter and I think that's come through."



WATER WAY TO GO: Nat abandons her Bushtucker challenge



BAWLING OUT: A wet and weeping Natalie says she feels faint again



SINKING FEELING: Natalie braves the water – but not for long

Pictures: REX

Starvin' Fran'll carve into Joe

■ **From PETER DYKE in Australia**
NIGHTCLUB boss Fran Cosgrave claims he's so hungry he will resort to cannibalism – and eat chubby comic Joe Pasquale.

"I need food right now," he screamed at TV bosses. "If I don't get it then I am gonna eat Joe! He is the nicest. I don't think he would mind if I took a nice chunk out of him."

Joe, 44, admitted he was a little unnerved. He told producers: "I am not worried about deadly spiders and snakes coming after me in the night – I'm more worried about Fran."

And Joe has revealed that some of the campers have had to resort to eating their toothpaste because they are feeling so hungry.

"It actually tastes quite nice," he added.

A show source said last night: "It's incredible – you'd think they were climbing Everest the way they were going on."

Beans

Food rations have been low because contestants like Natalie Appleton, Sophie Anderton and Brian Harvey have not done well in their Bush Tucker trials.

And the diet of beans and rice has started to send club guru Fran, 28, crazy.

When TV producers sent in a bag of birdseed for the camp pet emu Ant and Dec, he had a fit.

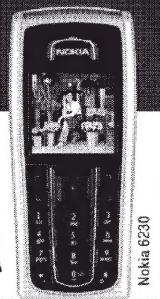
He shouted: "We need more human food. Forget the f***ing birds."

After he calmed down he went to the bush telegraph to protest to telly chiefs about the lack of food.

But they are adamant that the only way the celebs can boost their food rations is to perform well in the Bushtucker Trials.

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I'm a celeb lookalike: See pages 20-21

CLAMP ON COMPO

Hotlines target cheating scroungers

TAX payers are being urged to join the fight against scroungers who make bogus compensation claims.

Soaring numbers of fraudsters are suing for fake accidents like tripping over paving stones and falling down potholes, costing £1 billion a year.

Now councils have launched telephone hotlines so law-abiding citizens can shop cheats.

The explosion of no-win no-fee legal firms has seen compensation demands to councils almost double since 2000.

Examples of failed cases include a

by STEPHEN RIGLEY

tenant who insisted his council house be re-decorated, but then alleged the paint fumes had made his budgie asthmatic.

Another man claimed he hurt his ankle tripping on a broken pavement, but neighbours photographed him digging up the slabs himself.

Taxes

Although local authorities are insured, they are forced to pay higher premiums and excesses as they process mounting claims.

It means honest citizens have to pay via higher council tax or service cuts. About 20 councils, including Lambeth in London, Knowsley in Merseyside, Nottingham and Somerset, have introduced freephone hotlines.

Callers are put through to a national centre which passes tip-offs to council fraud investigators.

Steve Jackson, of Zurich Municipal, the UK's largest insurer of councils, told BBC Radio Five Live: "We are calling on the community spirit of people to report claims they know are dubious or fraudulent."

Fall MP's claim

A LABOUR MP is demanding a payout after slipping in a park - days after party leaders slammed Britain's growing compensation culture.

David Hinchliffe (right), 56, fell on a bridge while walking in his Wakefield constituency in West Yorkshire.

He said he was forced to cancel a holiday as a result.



LINK: Film star Catherine

Zeta 'in footie buyout'

by NADINE LINGE

CATHERINE Zeta Jones wants to buy a struggling football club.

The movie millionairess plans to snap up Llanelli AFC for £350,000.

They are bottom of the Welsh Premier League after nine defeats in a row.

But the club is just a few miles down the road from where she grew up and the chairman is her uncle Robert.

Oscar-winner Catherine, 34, wants to shoot scenes for a new film at the club's Stebonheath Park ground.

Family

And she doesn't want to risk another buyer refusing permission.

A club source said: "Catherine's top of the list of buyers. It would keep the team in the family and she's certainly got the money to do it."

Catherine has a mansion nearby in Mumbles, Swansea, and often jets home to visit family with husband Michael Douglas, 60, and children Dylan, four, and Carys, one.

Her car dealer uncle was forced to put the club up for sale this month after the manager quit and several players quit.

DAD-of-three Alan Clement, 38, died of head injuries after an attack outside a club at Basingstoke, Hampshire in the early hours of Saturday. Local man Alexander Kane, 23, has been charged with his murder.

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Tree-mendous

NIKKI Sanderson's a stocking filler most red-blooded fellas would like to see at the end of the bed ...and lusty lasses wish they could pull a Christmas cracker like Ryan Thomas. So it was tree-mendous for the people of Radcliffe, Manchester,

when the 20-year-old Coronation Street stars helped to switch on their festive lights.

Nikki got the cohs - but Ryan got the aahs for wearing his Santa hat over the top of his baseball cap.

Picture: DAVE NELSON

CATCH ALL THE LATEST SOAP GOSSIP: Page 22

Ted's off the rails

MADCAP motorist Ted Hodson cheated death by seconds - on a level crossing he'd built himself.

Hodson, 45, put wooden doors over a rail line so he could drive his car across.

But the doors collapsed, leaving him, his girlfriend and 14-year-old son Hamish in the path of an oncoming freight train.

The family scrambled clear just before the impact, which shunted the car 50 yards and injured the train driver.

Hodson was fined £250 by Grimsby Crown Court after admitting putting obstacles on the track near his home at Winterton, Lincolnshire..

LETHAL COCKTAIL

BARMAN Paul Martin has set a new record by mixing 170 different cocktails in an hour. Paul, from Worthing, beat the old record by 20.

He sets up inquiry into himself over ex-lover's claim



TRIANGLE: Ex-mistress Kimberley Quinn, her husband Stephen, inset, and David Blunkett yesterday



Picture: MIKE SCOTT

VISA-ROW BLUNKETT BATTLES TO SAVE JOB

DAVID Blunkett last night launched a desperate bid to stop his former lover wrecking his political career.

He ordered an inquiry into stunning allegations that he abused his position as Home Secretary to help ex-mistress Kimberley Quinn, 44.

The minister was forced into the move after a leaked private email from Mrs Quinn claimed he used his powers to get her Filipino nanny a visa to stay in Britain.

Mr Blunkett started his fight to clear his name as the Tories demanded a judge be appointed to investigate the string of accusations he faces.

Pressure

They say he must quit the Cabinet in disgrace if he is found to have intervened over the visa application by nanny Leoncia "Luz" Casalmé.

Prime Minister Tony Blair had earlier given Mr Blunkett his backing, insisting he has "full confidence" in him.

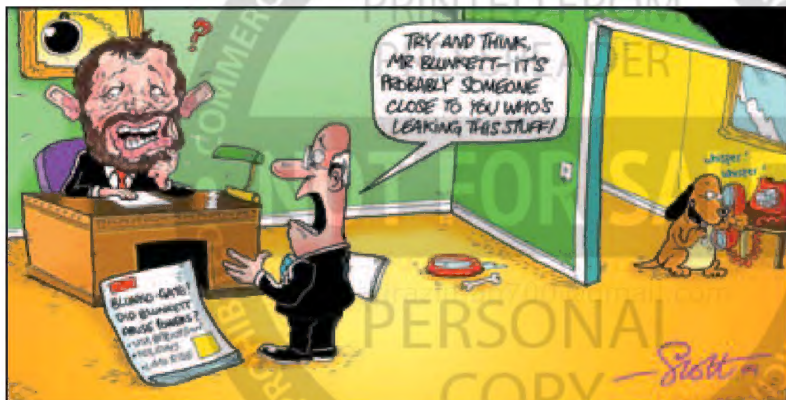
But embarrassed Mr Blunkett eventually caved in to the mounting pressure.

He issued a statement last night saying: "Trust, plain-speaking and straight talking is something which matters so much to me as a politician and as a man that I have decided to request an independent review of the allegations."

He has asked a top civil servant at the Home Office to appoint an independent reviewer.

"In the light of the flagrant attempt to link my public position with the deeply personal circumstances of my private life, it is right to lay this to rest," he added.

Married Mrs Quinn, who is



■ by IAIN BURCHELL

seven months pregnant, sent the email days after it emerged Mr Blunkett, 57, has launched a legal bid to prove he is the father of her baby and her two-year-old son William.

Mrs Quinn's husband Stephen, 60, has vowed to fight for William and her unborn child, whom he calls "our baby".

Sources close to the Home Secretary yesterday claimed DNA tests prove the toddler is his. He also faces claims he:

- Sent his official Government driver to pick up nanny Luz Casalmé's passport;

- Took Mrs Quinn on holiday to Spain for a wedding with four security men and a driver at taxpayers' expense;

- Shared top-secret info with her in "pillow talk", including advising her parents to avoid New York's Newark airport because of a terror threat;

- Ordered a policeman to stand guard at her London home amid fears of riots;

- Gave her first-class MPs' rail tickets;

- Used his Government chauffeur to drive her to his Derbyshire home for steamy weekend trysts.

Mr Blunkett has angrily denied any role in the visa application, other than checking it over at

Mrs Quinn's request to make sure it was filled in correctly.

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis last night welcomed the news of an inquiry.

He said: "It must be independent of the Home Office, probably by a judge, who should have access to papers and individuals."

Fear

Mr Davis had earlier warned the Home Secretary would have to resign if he was found to have intervened over the visa.

"It is a very serious allegation," he said. "No Home Secretary could survive that."

But Immigration Minister Des Browne - who works with Mr Blunkett in the Home Office - said: "He has nothing to fear. There has been no impropriety."

Mr Blunkett's spokesman denied all the accusations.

Guards storm rebels

■ by MATT JOHN

BRITISH troops yesterday took part in a dramatic amphibious assault on a riverside rebel village in Iraq's Triangle of Death.

The pre-dawn raid, supporting US Marines and Iraqi Special Forces, uncovered an arsenal of guns. A senior Saddam loyalist was also arrested.

The operation was a key counter-insurgency strike against foreign rebels flooding into Iraq.

The latest onslaught against rebels is part of Mission Plymouth Rock - the US-led surge to rid central Iraq of insurgents.

Target

More than 100 soldiers from The Queens Dragoon Guards, attached to The Black Watch, left Camp Dogwood on Saturday to start the operation.

Major Jasper de Quincy-Adams - who led the British operation - said: "The problem we have is that we are very exposed to mortar fire if any rebels over there decide to launch a counter-attack."

"They have done it before and we have learned this to our cost. We are fighting a different kind of enemy up here than the one down in Basra. We have to go in hard."

"There is no doubt that this area is the place from where rockets have been fired at Dogwood."

STREETS AHEAD

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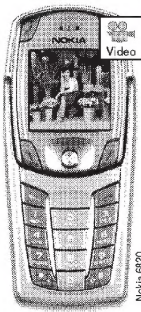
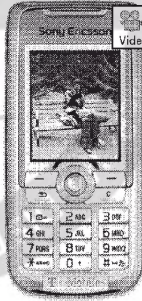
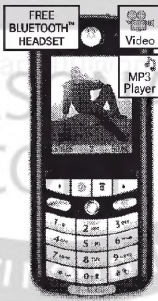
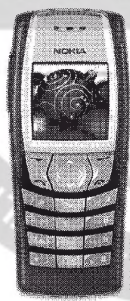
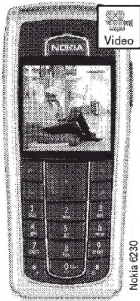
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VANESSA FELTZ

Twice a week
Monday & Thursday

Super Sophie a slice of heaven

ALL right, it's like this. It isn't fair. It isn't nice. It makes me spew to have to say it, but Sophie Anderton is a beauty.

She's gorgeous with kangaroo testicles in her mouth. She's exquisite with an old pink dishrag on her head. She looks drop-dead edible even when Sheila Ferguson accuses her of being "a shell".

Not only is Sophie utterly and completely ravishing to behold, and reasonably obliging when it comes to getting her bits out in a bikini, she's also OK.

Not the brain of Britain. Not a fascinating conversationalist, oozing wit, wisdom and hilarious impersonations of Boris Yeltsin. Just OK.

By being so deeply and convincingly OK, Sophie has badly let down millions of carping, catty, harpies who were confidently expecting her to be the biggest jungle f***-up of all time.

After all these "Sophie licked cocaine off my..." stories and all the Class A-fuelled kiss and tells, some of them from Sophie herself, people were predicting a massive jungle meltdown.

We were told Sophie would not only be a spoiled and petulant peabrain, but a hopeless, helpless addict. Without drugs and alcohol on tap, she'd be a rabbit caught in the headlights, paralysed with dependency, her vulnerability served up to the nation and entertainment.

Those who had met Sophie, myself included, feared for her. We need not have worried.

Sophie has been an absolute trouper. She's not wimpy. She's not a whinger. She doesn't moan and she's a dab hand at shinning up trees and building houses.

She smokes for England. She gets on with whatever's flung at her and she hasn't once thrown a hissy fit or acted the supermodel.

When Natalie Appleton, egged on by Sheila Ferguson, let rip at Sophie, it was the least deserved pile of pathetic piffle the rain forest has ever

seen. Sophie had just uncomplainingly hauled herself up the pole Natalie was too neurotic even to look at. Her reward was a face full of meaningless insults, along the lines of: "I'm not feeling you, babe - where are your emotions?"

The answer, to Sophie's eternal credit, is that her emotions are under control. She hasn't felt the need to unleash her torrid reminiscences, dish the dirt on her past lovers or incriminate anybody.

She's bonded with Nancy Sorrell, helped out Paul Burrell and generally conducted herself like a capable grown-up. Unlike Natalie, an incompetent infant who keeps, quite literally, crying for her mummy.

When Nat, Janet and Sheila all turned on Sophie at once, we were seeing a single unattractive human characteristic in its greenest and most naked form - envy.

Sheer jealousy was the sole root cause of all their pent-up frustration.

None of the three is a natural beauty. They all scrub up OK and - with good lighting, digital enhancement and a lens full of Vaseline - they'll all pass muster, but Sophie is a different species.

Only pretty Nancy is unthreatened by the sheer scale of Sophie's beauty. She's confident. A sex queen in her own right and she's got hubby Vic right there to squeeze her assets.

The rest of the women simply can't take it. So they fabricate a nonsensical reason for turning on Sophie and letting her bear the brunt of their own dissatisfaction with themselves.

"False." "Playing it for the cameras." "Me, me, me." All three accusations could apply to any one of them.

Sophie has coped. She's being courageous, obliging and perfectly sane. Her only crime has been to look like a slice of heaven while doing so.

Sophie Anderton probably won't be crowned Queen of the Jungle. She polarises too many people, turns women into green-eyed monsters and men into guilty, self-hating beasts.

It's a crying shame. That woman deserves the title for fighting her demons, past, present and Appleton, in front of 10 million viewers - and beating them all hands down.



Do you agree with Vanessa? Text DSFELTZ followed by a space, then your comment and name, and send to 61616. Or e-mail vanessa.feltz@dailystar.co.uk, or write to Vanessa Feltz, Daily Star, Northern and Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

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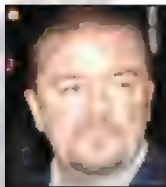
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Ricky's rubbish

THE Office star Ricky Gervais (above) has blasted the British film industry for churning out "working class" rubbish.

He claims movies made in this country are a turn-off because they are too "gritty" and unoriginal.

HARRY'S GIRL

Prince falls for teen beauty



PRINCE Harry was last night said to have fallen for a blonde teenager described as "his first true love".

The Prince, 20, spent two weeks with 19-year-old Chelsy Davy in Argentina before his South American adventure was cut short last week.

And the young love-

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

birds, who first hooked up eight months ago, looked besotted with each other, sources said.

Striking student Chelsy, 19, pictured below in her home near Cape Town yesterday, first met the Prince, left, when she was at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

But they only started dating this year after she finally won the Prince's heart. Yesterday it

emerged Chelsy, whose dad runs a farm in Zimbabwe, flew to be with Harry at the polo lodge in Argentina where he was staying.

Blushed

Sources at the ranch said they looked "madly in love".

One said when he was asked how long they'd been together the Prince, blushed and said: "Eight months." The source added: "At one point

Harry admitted she was his first true love.

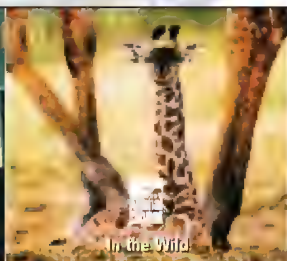
"They did loads of normal things together, like any young couple, sitting together, kissing and holding hands."

Harry reportedly spent weekends at Chelsy's Cape Town flat while he was working with Aids victims in Lesotho this summer.

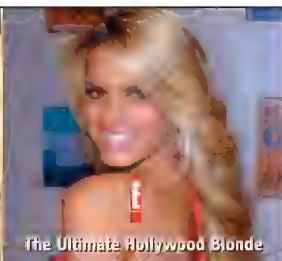
Harry is due to start his Army officer's training at Sandhurst in the New Year.



Sean Connery



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■ **COUNCILS** trying to control the rise of illegal gipsy camps across the UK are looking at buying land under compulsory purchase orders. Travellers could then be fast-tracked to new homes under rules for ethnic minorities.

Merry sexmas

MIDWIVES are appealing to randy couples to put condoms at the top of their Christmas list.

They want to avoid being overstretched in September delivering babies conceived during festive celebrations.

Staff at Warwick Hospital maternity unit made the plea for a "Safe Sex Xmas". Labour ward manager Viv Morris said: "It's a seasonal joke on the wards that a happy Christmas means a hectic September for midwives."



Picture: MATRIXPHOTOS.COM

Roo's gone to Chelsea

■ WAYNE Rooney's fiancée Coleen McLoughlin looked tan-tastic when the couple hit the town for a nosh-up at a swanky London restaurant. Coleen, 18, flashed a smile for snappers after their meal at Scalini. But Manchester United ace Rooney, 19, tried to ignore the cameras. And no wonder, when the restaurant they went to was in Chelsea, the home of his club's biggest rivals.



LOST CAUSE: Tony Blair

Blair's a failure on drugs

■ by PAUL MALLEY
TONY Blair was last night accused of losing the war on drugs.

Shock new figures from the Independent Drugs Monitoring Unit showed street prices of cocaine, heroin and ecstasy had crashed to record lows.

A line of coke costs just £2.50 - less than a glass of wine - and a tablet of ecstasy can be bought for as little as £1.

It has been sparked by huge amounts of drugs flooding into the country and a price war between drug gangs.

The failure by customs and police to smash trafficking gangs and cut off supplies to the streets is a major embarrassment for the Prime Minister.

Last week he pledged a new war on drugs. Shadow Home Secretary David Davis attacked Government strategy.

JAILHOUSE SHOCK

EMINEM has donated £30,000 to inmates at Rikers Island prison in New York to help them go straight when they are released.

£2M I.D. BILL AS MUM FINDS BULGER KILLER

Pair to get new name changes

JAMES Bulger's killers could each get £1 million new identities at taxpayers' expense after Jamie's mother rumbled one of them.

Denise Fergus, 37, spotted Robert Thompson in the street after an anonymous tip-off about where he was living.

Now Home Office officials fear Thompson and fellow murderer Jon Venables - whose names were changed when they left jail - could fall victim to vigilantes.

Crimes

They believe they have no alternative but to order another identity swap. And this could cost a total of £2 million.

A senior Home Office source said: "If their current identities enter the public domain they will undoubtedly be at risk. We are duty bound to take any steps necessary to prevent further serious crimes being committed. "We will obviously take steps to minimise any cost to the public purse."

Thompson and Venables were just ten years old when they tortured and butchered two-year-old James after abducting him from a Liverpool shopping centre 11 years ago. They



CRUSADE: Mum Denise and, inset, Thompson (top) and James

■ by JERRY LAWTON

have lived in secret since being freed in 2001.

But Denise was always determined to find them and campaigned for help.

A letter through her door revealed where Thompson was and she tracked him down, spotting him in the street from a car.

She said: "As soon as I

saw the bastard a chill went down my spine. "I recognised his podgy face and evil eyes.

"I wanted to rush up to him and scream, 'Why did you kill my child?' "Part of me wanted to jump out of the car and punch him. But I was paralysed with hatred.

"In the end I just stared after him as he wandered

down the street, turned a corner and was gone."

Even now Denise has vowed that she will never abandon her crusade. She added: "Now I have found Thompson. I will find the other one next."

"They can change their addresses as much as they like but they can't change their faces. There is no hiding place for them."

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Express Star Charts



BOOTED OUT: Rowetta

IT'S been a funny old week for pop and rock stars after singer Brian Harvey quit I'm A Celebrity. Meanwhile budding starlet Rowetta is ditched from The X Factor – while judge Sharon and husband Ozzy's home is raided.

Our OK! Celebrity Chart is based on stars' coverage in Express newspapers – your Daily Star, our sister papers the Daily Express and Sunday Express, and OK!, Britain's best celebrity magazine. It's THE guide to who's hot and who's not that's got everyone talking.

TOP 40 ALBUMS



- 1 (-) HOW TO DISMANTLE AN ATOMIC BOMB U2
- 2 (1) ENCORE Eminem
- 3 (2) GREATEST HITS Robbie Williams
- 4 (-) ULTIMATE KYLIE Kylie Minogue
- 5 (4) IL DIVO Il Divo
- 6 (7) GREATEST HITS Shania Twain
- 7 (3) GREATEST HITS – MY PREROGATIVE Britney Spears
- 8 (8) 10 YEARS OF HITS Ronan Keating
- 9 (5) DESTINY FULFILLED Destiny's Child
- 10 (9) HOPES AND FEARS Keane
- 11 (11) SCISSOR SISTERS Scissor Sisters
- 12 (6) BEST OF Blue
- 13 (10) ALLOW US TO BE FRANK Westlife
- 14 (-) LOVE ANGEL MUSIC BABY Gwen Stefani
- 15 (13) AMERICAN IDIOT Green Day
- 16 (17) SONGS ABOUT JANE Maroon 5
- 17 (14) LOVE SONGS Phil Collins
- 18 (15) UNWRITTEN Natasha Bedingfield
- 19 (12) SINGLES Travis
- 20 (28) CONFESSIONS Usher
- 21 (19) ALL THE BEST Tina Turner
- 22 (16) STARDUST – THE GREAT AMERICAN - VOL III Rod Stewart
- 23 (18) THE GREATEST HITS Wet Wet Wet
- 24 (21) LIVE – A TICKET FOR EVERYONE Busted
- 25 (-) MISTAKEN IDENTITY Delta Goodrem
- 26 (24) MIND BODY & SOUL Joss Stone
- 27 (23) FINAL STRAW Snow Patrol
- 28 (27) ANASTACIA Anastacia
- 29 (-) GOLD – GREATEST HITS Abba
- 30 (37) ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR McFly
- 31 (20) NUMBER ONES Bee Gees
- 32 (32) TWENTYSOMETHING Jamie Cullum
- 33 (-) R & G – THE MASTERPIECE Snoop Dogg
- 34 (30) OUT OF NOTHING Embrace
- 35 (29) SECOND NATURE Katherine Jenkins
- 36 (25) PEACHTREE ROAD Elton John
- 37 (-) THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM Aled Jones
- 38 (31) SING THE SIXTIES Foster & Allen
- 39 (34) CALL OFF THE SEARCH Katie Melua
- 40 (22) SECOND FIRST IMPRESSIONS Daniel Bedingfield

THE OK! CELEBRITY CHART

- 1) **BRIAN HARVEY:** The singer walked out of reality TV show I'm A Celebrity after less than a week in the Australian outback and confessed he'll marry his model girlfriend Emma B.
- 2) **ROWETTA:** Singer Rowetta Satchell was voted off talent show The X Factor.
- 3) **THE OSBOURNES:** Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne had £2m of jewels stolen from their house.
- 4) **CHRIS EVANS:** Media mogul Chris sold off his and estranged wife Billie Piper's possessions at a north London market.
- 5) **NIKKI SANDERSON:** The Coronation Street babe was blitzed with romantic text messages from England striker Alan Smith.
- 6) **KERRY KATONA:** Kerry



WALKOUT: Brian Harvey

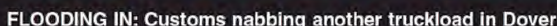
enjoyed a dinner date with rocker Robbie Williams.

- 7) **GIRLS ALoud:** The five singers enjoyed a second week at the top of the charts with their cover version of 80s classic I'll Stand By You.
- 8) **WESTLIFE:** The Irish band performed with Kevin Spacey at the UK premiere of Beyond The Sea.
- 9) **GERI HALLIWELL:** Geri promoted her new single Ride It and paraded through central London on horseback.
- 10) **NATASHA BEDINGFIELD:** The British singer performed to VIP guests including Sting at an Amnesty International event in London.

TOP 40 SINGLES



- 1 (1) I'LL STAND BY YOU Girls Aloud
- 2 (2) LOSE MY BREATH Destiny's Child
- 3 (3) IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE Lemar
- 4 (-) RIDE IT Gari
- 5 (-) TILTYA HEAD BACK Nelly & Christina Aguilera
- 6 (-) IRISH SON Brian McFadden
- 7 (6) JUST LOSE IT Eminem
- 8 (4) WHAT YOU WAITING FOR Gwen Stefani
- 9 (8) BABY IT'S YOU Jojo ft Bow Wow
- 10 (-) PARTY FOR TWO Shania Twain ft Mark McGrath
- 11 (9) CONFESSIONS PART II Usher
- 12 (-) OUT OF TOUCH Untitled Nations
- 13 (7) VERTIGO U2
- 14 (-) NUMB/ENCORE Jay-Z & Linkin Park
- 15 (10) CAR WASH Christina Aguilera ft Missy
- 16 (5) ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR McFly
- 17 (13) CALL ON ME Eric Prydz
- 18 (-) THIS IS THE LAST TIME Keane
- 19 (14) DJ/STOP Jamelia
- 20 (12) CURTAIN FALLS Blue
- 21 (-) THINKING OF YOU Status Quo
- 22 (17) THE WEEKEND Michael Gray
- 23 (-) GET IT ON Intenso Project/Lisa Scott-Lee
- 24 (11) ASHES Embrace
- 25 (20) MY NECK MY BACK (LICK IT) Khia
- 26 (15) MY PREROGATIVE Britney Spears
- 27 (-) I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ROCK N ROLL Thunder
- 28 (-) LOST IN A MELODY CARELESS WHISPER Delays
- 29 (-) 2 Play ft Thomas Jules
- 30 (22) DREAM Dizzee Rascal
- 31 (-) STAY WITH YOU Lemon Jelly
- 32 (27) MILLIONAIRE Kelis ft Andre
- 33 (21) WONDERFUL JA Rule ft R Kelly & Ashanti
- 34 (26) HUNGRY EYES Eye Opener
- 35 (28) BREATHE Fabolous
- 36 (19) DREAMING I Dream ft Frankie and Calvin
- 37 (16) JOLENE – LIVE UNDER BLACKPOOL LIGHTS White Stripes
- 38 (30) EVERLASTING LOVE Jamie Cullum
- 39 (35) FLASHDANCE Deep Dish
- 40 (24) NOBODY'S HOME Avril Lavigne



Fury over hospital escape

END OF THE Q?

GADGETS: Cleese

HUNGRY Brits sent bacon sales sizzling through the £1 billion barrier even though it was 17% cheaper this year, says The Grocer.

29.8%
APR

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THE GOSS

With KATIE HIND, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS

CARING GERI PLAYS CUPID

Then Holy Spice goes off to church

UNLUCKY-in-love Geri Halliwell's latest match-making efforts have proved she does have the gift of the gab when it comes to romance.

She has set up a string of dates between Radio 1 presenter **Wes Butters**, 23, and sizzling *Where The Heart Is* actress **Kelly Wenham**, 21, pictured left.

And the ex-*Spice Girl*, 32, seen in a serious mood at the weekend when she headed to Hind St Methodist Church in Marylebone in central London, revelled with satisfaction as her matchmaking powers came into play.

An insider said: "Geri had brought Kelly into Radio 1 with her when she was promoting her latest single *Ride It*, and Wes was most impressed with what he saw.

"Geri couldn't help noticing this. Later on, Geri slipped him Kelly's mobile number and they arranged to go out.

"As well as enjoying lengthy dinners together, they have also gone to the cinema. There is definitely a spark between them both and Geri is delighted."

BIG spender **Britney Spears** splashed out £50,000 on her latest spree, with a new diamond ring for herself and a tartan collar for her pet pooch. But a set of exclusive golf clubs for new hubby **Kevin Federline** made him feel top dog on Thanksgiving Day.

We just think it's a pity that Geri can't find herself a fit fella.

Geri, who insists she's single, has dated 30-year-old **Robbie Williams**, **Chris Evans**, 38, and actor **Jerry O'Connell**, 30.

Mood

She's also become close friends with singer **Darius Danesh**, 24.

But for the time being she's too busy concentrating on her career to find her own knight in shining armour.

Our insider added: "Geri is a woman who has everything a girl could want."

Well...nearly everything.



SERVICE: Geri on her way to church in London

Lack of LAFTA for Suzanne...

LOVE rat **Darren Day** has banned his pregnant girlfriend **Suzanne Shaw** from going to a glitzy awards ceremony this week. And we hear that Suzanne, 23, who is expecting to give birth on Christmas Day, has been left "gutted" by 36-year-old Darren's attitude.

An insider said: "Suzanne had called the organisers of the Loaded LAFTAs three weeks ago to request a ticket.

"But now Darren has put his foot down about her being heavily pregnant and going out."

Memo to Darren: Stop dishing out silly demands and just think yourself really lucky that Suzanne is still by your side - especially after "playing away" with another woman.

What a cheek!

EDDIE Izzard looked fighting fit when he went for a jog in LA.

The 44-year-old comic is being bombarded with offers of work by Hollywood bigwigs.

And we think Izzie - who is in *Oceans 12* - looks much better minus the make-up he slaps on before going on stage.



Picture: SPLASH NEWS AND PICTURES



Picture: MATRIX



Picture: MAXPIXPHOTO.COM

RAUNCHY rocker **Rod Stewart** sparked speculation he'd popped the question to model **Penny Lancaster** by buying a huge sparkler she proudly slipped on to her engagement ring finger. Rod, 59, and Penny, 33, had a lengthy visit to the LA jeweller's. The pair - usually pictured slobbering over each other - kept their hands to themselves as they left looking pleased.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?